

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully requested.

Drawings

FIGS. 29 and 30 were objected to for failing to include a legend “Prior Art.” FIGS. 29 and 30 have been amended to include such legend. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Specification

The title of the instant application was objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. The title of the instant application has been amended. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,437,766 (“Matsushima”). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

With respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Matsushima, at a minimum, fails to describe or suggest a drive device that includes, among other features, a first generation section including k first level shifters outputting the k first signals after shifting a voltage level of the k first signals from a first voltage level used in the first generation section to a second voltage

level used in the output circuits, and a second generation section including m second level shifters outputting the m second signals after shifting a voltage level of the m second signals from a first voltage level used in the second generation section to a second voltage level used in the output circuits, as recited in amended claim 1. The support for this amendment may be found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0048, 0049].

Specifically, paragraph [0048] of the specification states that “[e]ach of the level shifters **LSa-1** to **LSa-k** shifts the output from its corresponding flipflop, which is the signal having an amplitude of VDD-VSS of the logic voltage level, to a signal having an amplitude of VGG-VEE as a voltage required for driving liquid crystal display elements.” And, paragraph [0049] states that “[e]ach of the level shifters **LSb-1** to **LSb-m** shifts the output from its corresponding flipflop, which is the signal having an amplitude of VDD-VSS of the logic voltage level, to a signal having an amplitude of VGG-VEE as a voltage required for driving a liquid crystal display element.”

Referring to FIG. 1 of Matsushima, the Office Action asserts that scanning circuits 11-1 through 11-257 correspond to the first generation section and AND gate circuits 12-1 through 12-4 correspond to the second generation section, recited in claim 1. *See*, Office Action at page 3. Applicants disagree because the alleged first generation section does not include k first level shifters outputting the k first signals after shifting a voltage level of the k first signals from a first voltage level used in the first generation section to a second voltage level used in the output circuits, as recited in amended claim 1. In contrast, the alleged first generation section sequentially shifts a start pulse STa by one-half pulse and does not shift a voltage level of a signal from a first voltage level to a second voltage level.

The alleged second generation section also does not include m second level shifters

outputting the m second signals after shifting a voltage level of the m second signals from a first voltage level used in the second generation section to a second voltage level used in the output circuits, as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, in the relied upon portions, Matsushima fails to describe or suggest a drive device that includes, among other features, a first generation section including k first level shifters outputting the k first signals after shifting a voltage level of the k first signals from a first voltage level used in the first generation section to a second voltage level used in the output circuits, and a second generation section including m second level shifters outputting the m second signals after shifting a voltage level of the m second signals from a first voltage level used in the second generation section to a second voltage level used in the output circuits, as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, along with its dependent claims.

Claim 15 recites a drive method that includes, among other steps, steps of sequentially turning k first signals corresponding to the k groups from a non-output state to an output state according to a first clock and shifting a voltage level of the k first signals from a first voltage level corresponding to the first clock to a second voltage level corresponding to the drive signals and sequentially turning m second signals corresponding to the m output terminals belonging to each of the k groups from the non-output state to the output state according to a second clock and shifting a voltage level of the m second signals from a first voltage level corresponding to the second clock to a second voltage level corresponding to the drive signals. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima in view of JP 05-313129 (“Murakami”). Claim 4 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima in view of U.S. Patent Number 7,079,122 (“Morita”). Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1. Therefore, they are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 3 and 4.

Dependent Claims

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims dependent thereon are also allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination. **In this regard, it is respectfully requested that withdrawn claims 5-14 be rejoined as being dependent on allowable claim 1.**

Conclusion

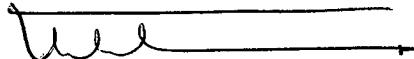
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner’s

amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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